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Draft country programme document**

Republic of Maldives

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for the Republic of Maldives is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of $2,202,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $3,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2008 to 2010.

* E/ICEF/2007/8.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19 (E/ICEF/2006/5/Rev.1), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the Board session. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2007.

Note: Submission of this document was delayed for technical reasons.

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Basic data[†] *(2005 unless otherwise stated)*	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	0.1[a]
U5MR (per 1,000 live births, 2001)	42[b]
Underweight (%, moderate and severe)	30
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2001)	140
Primary school attendance (% net, male/female, 2002)	89/90
Primary schoolchildren reaching grade 5 (%, 2001)	99[c]
Use of improved drinking water sources (%, 2004)	83
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	—
Child labour (%, children 5-14 years old)	—
GNI per capita (US$)	2 390
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	98
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	97

[†] More comprehensive country data on children and women are available at www.unicef.org.
[a] Census 2006 data.
[b] Vital statistics data is 16 per 1,000 live births for 2005.
[c] Survival rate to grade four.

The situation of children and women

1. Maldives has approximately 299,000 people (2006 census), of whom 117,000 are children. Some 39 per cent of the population is under age 18, and 9 per cent is under age five. The country will graduate from least-developed status in 2010. The economy has grown 7.9 per cent annually over the past 15 years, affecting poverty rates. Under 1 per cent of the population had an income of less than one dollar a day in 2004, compared to 3 per cent in 1997, according to the 2005 Maldives Country Report on the Millennium Development Goals. Still, two economic challenges exist: first, the heavy reliance on tourism and fishing revenue, which together contribute an estimated 33 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP); and second, the rise of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among youth and women, noted in the 2006 Common Country Assessment (CCA).

2. The country is making good progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and has achieved most of them, except Goals 3 and 7. UNICEF interventions will therefore continue to address issues related to the Millennium Declaration as a whole, promoting fundamental values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. The Declaration also calls for a redoubling of efforts to counter drug use and to implement commitments to strengthen social protection measures. Both activities will continue in the proposed country programme of cooperation.

3. The tsunami of December 2004 resulted in inundation of all but nine of the inhabited islands in Maldives, damaging 6,100 houses and the infrastructure on the islands. More than 15,000 residents, equivalent to 5 per cent of the population, lost their homes. More than one third of the population of the country suffered directly or indirectly from the tsunami, the final cost of which was estimated at $475 million, or approximately 62 per cent of the GDP. Loss of life included 82 dead and 26 missing. As a percentage of the population, these losses were the third-highest in

the region. The successful recovery from the tsunami led to an estimated economic growth of 18 per cent in 2006. This can be attributed to the recovery of the tourism sector and stimulus from reconstruction, including national and international support. The expansionary fiscal policy of the Government and the forecasted continued growth in tourism are expected to result in an estimated annual economic growth of 7 per cent in 2008-2010.

4. In keeping with the President's Political Reform Agenda, the Government has promised to redraft and enact a new Constitution by June 2007 and, in October 2008, to hold the country's first democratic, multi-party elections in nearly 30 years. In September 2006, the Government acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol, and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, aiming for progressive compliance within the time frame of the political reform agenda and Seventh National Development Plan.

5. Between 1990 and 2005, under-five mortality (U5M) was reduced from 48 to 16 per 1,000 live births, and infant mortality in 2005 was 12 per 1,000 live births, according to the Ministry of Planning and National Development, *Statistical Year Book 2006*. In line with Millennium Development Goal target 5, the goal for Maldives was to reduce U5M to 16 per 1,000 live births by 2015. Under-five mortality shows no gender difference and strikes most infants in the perinatal period. There is a significant gap in the reduction of U5M between the capital, Malé, and the atolls. Maldives has maintained near-universal vaccination for the expanded programme on immunization (EPI), and has one of the highest vaccine coverage rates in South Asia. Among children aged 0-3, the prevalence of underweight and stunting is 21 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively. Exclusive breastfeeding to six months is at 15 per cent (2005). The integrated early childhood development (IECD) strategy being developed by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF will address these two issues.

6. While Maldives has achieved universal primary education and nearly 99 per cent literacy, the quality of primary learning achievement has remained low for decades due to an acute shortage of qualified teachers and non-participatory teaching methodologies. Nearly 30 per cent of teachers are untrained. Net enrolment ratios for primary, lower secondary and higher secondary schooling are 100 per cent, 64.6 per cent (70.7 female/58.8 male) and 7.2 per cent (7.8 female/6.7 male), respectively (Ministry of Education, 2005).

7. In Malé, where one third of the population lives, 100 per cent of the population has access to safe water and all households are connected to a conventional gravity-flow sewage system. In the atolls, 6 per cent of the population lacks access to sanitary facilities (2004) compared with 60 per cent in 1990 (Millennium Development Goals report, 2005). Remote island communities traditionally depend on shallow freshwater aquifers for drinking water, though these have become severely degraded due to leaking septic tanks and saline intrusion. In response, the Government has given high priority to the construction of rainwater collection systems, as well as to locally operated desalination systems for larger populated islands. Regulatory and investment policies seeking to redress years of chronic environmental pollution among populated islands are still critically needed.

8. Although HIV prevalence is low, vulnerabilities are high, including because of growing substance misuse, high divorce rates, multiple partnering, population movement, the presence of a migrant workforce, a large adolescent/youth population

and a high prevalence of a blood disorder, thalassemia. Approximately 18 per cent of the population carries the condition, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Injection drug use (IDU) is becoming more common, posing an increased threat of transmission of HIV and diseases such as hepatitis C. A 2006 UNICEF knowledge, attitude and practice study among drug-using peers indicated a 30 per cent prevalence of IDU.

9. Despite significant recent progress towards political and institutional reforms of governance, key challenges to social equity remain. The foremost is reducing the growing social and economic disparities between Malé and the 20 atolls. Urban-rural disparities in the access to and quality of health and education services are coupled with high malnutrition rates and the chronic weakness of social protection services. Evidence-based policies and common data systems are needed to ensure equitable investment in and delivery of quality services.

10. According to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (January 2007), gender disparity affects the quality of health and social services used. Compared to boys and men, girls and women tend to receive lower quality services. Gender inequity is a Constitutional issue in terms of governance. Women are currently prohibited from holding the highest offices of State by law, and in the judiciary by custom. Gender biases are reflected in the low employment rates of women and, to some extent, in school textbooks.

11. Key protection issues facing children and women are related to the high divorce rate and reconstituted families in which the threat of sexual exploitation and abuse is most acute. A recent survey by the Ministry of Gender and Family, supported by UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, revealed disturbing trends of gender-based violence: one out of six women aged 15-49 living in Malé, had experienced childhood sexual abuse (defined as occurring under the age of 15). The rate is one in eight countrywide.

12. Discrimination against children born out of wedlock, with disabilities, misusing substances and/or in conflict with the law is still widely evident. Harmonizing national legislation with international human rights principles and Islamic law are accorded high priority in order to establish a strong legal framework to uphold children's rights. The Government recognizes the need to draft a comprehensive intersectoral policy framework and to create unified information-sharing mechanisms to identify and protect children at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

13. In March 2006, the Government submitted its second and third combined report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 10 years after its initial report. The Committee requested improved data disaggregation; urgent coordination of health and protection referral and recourse services for children; and a closer examination of social spending trends. The launch of the Committee's Concluding Observations after the plenary meeting with the Maldives Government in May 2007 should stimulate joint action to address the report's concerns.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2003-2007

14. The health and nutrition programme has had an impact at the national and targeted atoll levels. All health centres have been equipped with EPI and micronutrients; a mobile Emergency Obstetric Care unit has been provided on a

boat; atoll-level health facilities have been equipped with Newborn Care Centres; and health workers have been trained to provide newborn care and micronutrient supplementation. A nationwide health and nutrition knowledge base is being initiated to ensure that vulnerable children are identified and reached in a timely manner, facilitated by a national on-line Nutrition and Child Health Surveillance System. National surveys on Infant and Young Child Feeding and micronutrients conducted with UNICEF support have provided empirical evidence for the National Nutrition Strategic Plan, which incorporates micronutrient supplementation, the protection and promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding. Children's health and nutritional status has been further reinforced by providing to children under three in five focus atolls the five IECD care practices: ensuring two doses of vitamin A, exclusive breastfeeding, timely and quality complementary feeding, full immunization, and growth monitoring.

15. Together with the Government, UNICEF has developed and implemented an IECD behaviour change communication strategy that focuses on positive deviance approaches (a method whereby those who succeed most with their child care practices share them with others in the community) and the use of community monitoring tools.

16. The quality education programme introduced the child-friendly schools concept to 5 pre-schools and 22 primary schools through a small-scale pilot programme at the start of the current programme. In keeping with the "building back better" principle of the post-tsunami programme, the child-friendly school concept has been rapidly expanded across the country to all registered pre-schools and 105 primary schools. During this period, more than 400 pre-school and 600 primary school teachers have received training in child-friendly teaching methodology. Field monitoring reports indicate that both teachers and parents have acknowledged positive learning and behavioural changes among students in child-friendly schools, and this has fuelled demand for the concept's continuation and expansion. Post-tsunami recovery operations supported by UNICEF have re-established education access for more than 10,000 students through repairs carried out at 87 pre-schools and primary schools.

17. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has supported the establishment of 20 atoll-based Teacher Resource Centres, equipped with high-speed broadband internet and state-of-the-art teaching aids. A Virtual Learning Environment accessible to all teachers of Maldives has been created, with provision for online professional development courses as well as teaching resources.

18. UNICEF has supported revision of the national primary curriculum to focus on student achievement. An assessment policy was developed and teachers were trained in assessment strategies. A review of national primary curriculum materials identified areas for improvement regarding gender stereotyping.

19. The child protection and adolescent livelihoods programme has supported the initial phases of establishing a coordinated social protection system to provide children in Malé and two selected atolls with medical, social and legal redress as victims, offenders and witnesses. To achieve this result, the programme has supported counterparts, specifically the Ministry of Gender and Family, in centring their activities on four key pillars: policy formulation and advocacy based on empirical evidence around key child protection issues and commonly defined indicators; establishment of adequate legislation for the protection of children

according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; relevant capacity-building; and strengthening of recreational, vocational and participation opportunities for children, including the development of life skills. The aim is to ensure a protective environment for children, integral to the achievement of human rights and development goals.

20. In the water and environmental sanitation programme, recovering infrastructure losses, arresting groundwater-quality degradation and addressing the long-term environmental impact of inadequate sewage and solid waste disposal on affected islands have shaped an expanded post-tsunami programme response. UNICEF has provided approximately 33 per cent of all replacement household water storage tanks, benefiting 6,632 households with rainwater harvesting kits and 39,792 people and internally displaced persons with community tanks at mosques and schools. Nineteen static and four mobile reverse osmosis desalination plants have been provided to serve as an emergency back-up supply of safe water. Maldives is now firmly on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals target for safe water access as a result of contributions from UNICEF, other major sector partners and the Government.

21. Four islands, designated as future population growth centres and capable of hosting up to 20,000 people, are benefiting from the disposal of household wastewater and sewage through small-bore vacuum systems linked to solar-powered sewage treatment plants. These treatment systems generate waste streams clean enough to regenerate degraded groundwater and provide an inert organic waste that substantially improves the fertility of fragile soils adversely impacted by the tsunami inundation. An investment portfolio highlighting the costs and benefits of these model schemes, based on a feasibility study, will be developed during the final year of the current programme cycle to leverage future government and private investment in similar sustainable sanitation solutions for growth-centre populations. The impact of safe water supply and sanitation interventions on disease morbidity among children will be assessed during a Demographic and Health Survey commissioned by the Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WHO, during the last quarter of 2007.

22. UNICEF has collaborated with the Ministry of Energy, Environment and Water and the Ministry of Education to produce active learning modules for primary and secondary students, themed on freshwater conservation, coral reef protection, biodiversity and renewable energy measures.

23. In partnership with the Ministry of Planning and National Development, DevInfo has been adapted to the Maldives context, with Millennium Development Goals indicators and data from the last four population census, the statistical yearbook and all major surveys incorporated into the database. Core accountabilities and appropriate national budget provisions have been assigned to administer and customize the database for use as a monitoring tool for the Seventh National Development Plan by relevant government institutions.

24. A decentralized, atoll-based field monitoring network, IMPACT (Impact Monitoring and Programme Assessment for Children of the Tsunami), has been established in 12 atolls to provide strategic information about UNICEF-supported programmes, bottlenecks and achievements. The network comprises a potential national monitoring mechanism to strengthen the Government's ability to monitor

progress towards targets of the Tsunami Recovery Impact Assessment and Monitoring System and national development goals.

25. In advocacy, UNICEF has focused on building the capacity of the media to report objectively, report on children's rights and foster informed debate on internationally agreed treaties — areas that have been particularly important during the past two years of political transition. The media's role in this debate has been crucial. As one example of capacity-building, a UNICEF-supported Reuters Foundation training brought together 17 journalists from across the political spectrum.

Lessons learned

26. **Capacity-building measures to mitigate acute human resource limitations**. The mid-term review highlighted a shortage of qualified civil servants, weak civil society and limited engagement of public-private sector development partnerships. These challenges place a heavy burden on central Government officials in strategic planning, programme management and monitoring the effectiveness of social services. The next country programme will therefore continue to focus on building critical skills and ethical practice among young professionals working in areas of UNICEF interventions. It will also seek to increase the flexibility of partnerships with private entities and civil society so that more substantive capacity at community levels can be generated for sustainable service delivery.

27. **Promoting evidence-based public dialogue on measures needed to fulfil national development goals and human rights treaty obligations**. Consultations for the CCA/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) exercise have shown a strong commitment from Ministries for long-term, results-based planning grounded in evidence and analysis. Still, political uncertainties during the current transition to democratic governance have reinforced centralized policy-making, limited transparency and strained public consensus on the relevance of human rights-centred development. During the next country programme, UNICEF will further apply information and communication technology innovations to facilitate disaggregated data analysis related to the fulfilment of national development goals; provide evidence to sustain the rule of law; and stimulate wider public dialogue to prioritize resource allocation for the narrowing of growing urban-rural and gender inequalities.

28. **Mitigating extreme vulnerability to disaster shocks**. The isolation and dispersion of the Maldives archipelago, along with its highly centralized governance authority, undiversified economy and near-total dependence on imported goods and services make the country acutely vulnerable to future disaster shocks. The imminent completion of a fibre-optic communication backbone providing high-speed Internet to all populated islands; new transport infrastructure investments; and the governance decentralization process have generated new opportunities for UNICEF and its United Nations partners to build and sustain disaster preparedness and response capacity across the country.

29. **The right balance between capacity-building — at community, island and central levels — and advocacy**. To ensure sustainability of the sanitation systems built on four islands, UNICEF and its partners worked at the community, atoll and central levels. At the community level, efforts ensured that capacity to operate the services existed. At the atoll level, the focus was to build technical expertise in

system maintenance. At the central level, UNICEF advocated for improved policies, guidelines and allocation of funds to facilitate the operations and maintenance of the delivered systems. A feasibility study to be undertaken later this year to refine and improve the cost- effectiveness of implementation will be an important element to ensure sustainability and to support advocacy, specifically to convince stakeholders of the practicality of a new or innovative system, and for establishing public-private partnerships. Partnerships will be sought with companies that can ensure long-term sustainability of the systems, place a high value on social corporate responsibility and operate systems cost-efficiently. The lessons learned in this project may benefit other development programmes that build infrastructure.

The country programme, 2008-2010

Summary budget table

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*[1]	*Total*
Child survival and development	286	1 059	1 345
Quality education	551	706	1 257
Child protection	771	882	1 653
Communications, advocacy and planning	264	353	617
Cross-sectoral costs	330		330
Total	**2 202**	**3 000**	**5 202**

[1] Excluding required support to ensure sustainability of interventions initiated during the tsunami reconstruction period, which will be funded by the 2007 emergency tsunami carry-over funds.

30. Preparation for the CPD began with the establishment of Theme Groups whose inputs formed the CCA and UNDAF. The Theme Groups, which included relevant Government counterparts, were tasked with undertaking analysis of causality, capacity and roles in alignment with the development issues outlined in the Seventh National Development Plan. Identified issues were prioritized and selection was made based on criteria provided in the CCA/UNDAF guidelines and on the comparative advantage of the United Nations agencies in Maldives. The result of the analysis was validated through community, stakeholder and additional Government consultations.

31. The goals, key results and strategies of this CPD are based on the UNDAF and its result matrices. The UNDAF National Steering Committee, comprising United Nations Executive Committee agencies, Ministries of Finance, Planning and National Development and Foreign Affairs, reviewed the draft CPD in February 2007 to check consistency with the UNDAF results matrix and to forge a common language on joint programming initiatives.

Goals, key results and strategies

32. The overall goal of the programme of cooperation will be the realization of the rights of children and women living in Maldives, especially in the areas of survival, development, protection, and participation.

33. The proposed country programme will advocate for improved government resource allocation to ensure the best outcome for children and the establishment of public-private partnerships and will provide high-impact specialized technical assistance with a view to enhancing national and atoll capacity. Another important strategy will be to facilitate multisectoral collaboration, especially regarding child protection interventions. The sustainability of infrastructure built during the tsunami reconstruction period will be supported through the leveraging of resources and advocacy. Gender disparity reduction, promoting meaningful child participation, promoting the rights-based approach to development and empowerment of youth will be principals of all strategies.

34. Capacity-building regarding emergencies and disaster mitigation will be a common theme built into each programme. Each programme's emergency intervention will respond to the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies in areas of health and nutrition, education and child protection.

35. The following are the expected key results:

(a) All children under five and pregnant mothers have sustained access to quality health services, and 50 per cent of caregivers of children under three apply community- and household- based care and feeding practices;

(b) All children aged 3-16 have improved access to quality education, universal primary education enrolment is sustained, and transition rates from primary to secondary education are increased from 65 per cent to 95 per cent;

(c) Vulnerable and marginalized children, with an emphasis on the girl child, are identified, referred to appropriate social protection services and monitored by a multisectoral national child protection system in Malé and target atolls;

(d) Environment services established following the tsunami, such as safe water and sewage treatment systems, are maintained by communities on four islands, and similar sewage treatment systems are replicated on other safe island locations through advocacy;

(e) Disaggregated data are generated, analysed and disseminated to enhance investment in (the best interests) of children and to ensure more equitable planning, policy development, and programme results for children;

(f) 95 per cent of adolescents (10-18) have correct knowledge of HIV and AIDS, know how to reduce risks and protect themselves against the disease, and 75 per cent of identified most-at-risk adolescents receive targeted comprehensive HIV prevention services.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

36. The key results outlined above are UNDAF outcomes based on the Seventh National Development Plan pillars. The outcomes were formulated by theme groups, a core group and the National Steering Committee in line with the priorities of the Seventh National Development Plan. They were further reviewed and endorsed in the Joint Strategy Meeting, which included the participation of key Ministers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and resident and non-resident United Nations agencies. The focus of the outcomes was narrowed to the mandate of UNICEF. The time span of the proposed country programme aligns with that of the Seventh National Development Plan 2006-2010, and the Executive Committee agencies'

country programme cycles. Beginning in 2011, the Government of Maldives planning cycle and that of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and UNFPA will be fully harmonized.

37. UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA will implement the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer, unifying regulations on the disbursement, transfer and monitoring of programme funds to implementing partners. The joint Government-United Nations project on Human Rights, which supported the Human Rights Commission's Strategic Action Plan, was initiated in 2006 and will form the basis of future joint programming. Proposed areas for joint programming, as outlined in the UNDAF, are stated in the **programme component** section.

Relationship to international priorities

38. The proposed programme will contribute to the Millennium Development Goals on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, sustaining the country's achievement of universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, and protecting the vulnerable. The programme will contribute to the four major goals of *A World Fit for Children*: protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence; promoting healthy lives; providing quality education; and combating HIV/AIDS. The programme components will address priorities outlined in the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP). By 1 January 2011, UNICEF Maldives will become part of a unified United Nations office, in line with proposals made by the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence. Modalities to fully achieve this objective will be explored throughout the country programme.

Programme components

39. The **child survival and development** programme component will contribute to key result areas (a), (d), (e) and (f). Specifically, the programme will contribute to the attainment of five results. The first result will be that communities and households are empowered to practice positive IECD behaviour, including infant and child feeding practice, and utilize health and nutrition services. In support of this result, and of improving the established Nutrition and Child Health Surveillance System, the programme will aim to build the capacity of the national health service providers to refer relevant cases in a timely manner and improve the access of vulnerable children and women to quality and comprehensive nutrition and safe motherhood services. These will include prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. The programme will aim to enhance public-private partnerships and empower local government and communities to provide sustainable management of water and sanitation services. At the national level, the programme will aim to strengthen national environmental standards and guidelines on water and sanitation so that they guide sectoral policies, programmes and local practices.

40. The **quality education** component will contribute to key result areas (b), (e) and (f). Specifically, the programme aims to ensure that children aged 3-12 with special needs have access to schools that progressively meet their needs, and that Special Needs Education facilitators are available to all schools. The second programme objective is for all children attending primary schools to have improved learning achievement, based on a revised curriculum and access to appropriately trained teachers. The programme will seek to ensure that children attending pre-

schools and all children aged 6-10 attend child-friendly schools. A joint project with UNFPA will provide access to life skills programmes adapted to the Maldivian context for secondary school students and for those at appropriate primary grade levels. In partnership with the World Bank, the programme will develop a diversified and improved secondary curriculum, adapted to the Maldivian context and including vocational training. UNDP will provide inputs to the environment and disaster mitigation components of the secondary curriculum.

41. Building on interventions of the previous country programme, this component will work towards the sustainability of the Teacher Resource Centres, advocating for the scaling-up of child-friendly primary schools and for the sustained support of curriculum revision.

42. The **child protection** component will contribute to key result areas (c), (e) and (f). Specifically, the programme will aim to ensure nine results. The first is that vulnerable and most-at-risk children are identified and referred to relevant services through a coordinated family protection system. In selected atolls, the programme aims to ensure these children have access to support, recovery and rehabilitation services, including child-friendly and gender-sensitive investigations. Working with the police, the programme will aim to establish child-friendly investigation procedures for victims, witnesses and offenders. The programme will seek to increase the knowledge, skills and access to outreach services for most-at-risk and highly vulnerable adolescents and youth so that they can protect themselves against drug abuse, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. At the national level, the objective is to harmonize the domestic legal framework with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other child-related international human rights treaties; to support mechanisms to increase access to juvenile justice; and to ensure effective implementation of relevant treaty obligations related to children who are victims of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect, within and outside their family, and to children in conflict with the law. The programme will support the development of social protection mechanisms for children in need of protection and the reorientation of the penal system to reduce the number of child offenders and re-offenders. The aim is to offer a diversion system to the judiciary and to increase the number of child offenders reintegrated into society. The programme will also aim to offer alternative measures to imprisonment or deprivation of liberty. The programme seeks to enhance the capacity of the judiciary, police, civil society groups and social workers to secure protection rights, especially those relevant to women, youth and children. A basic pillar of the programme will be seeking positive behavioural development in most-at-risk adolescents and ensuring support to the creation of a protective environment for children. The interventions supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, plus the UNFPA life skills programme for out-of-school youth, will be areas for joint programming.

43. Building on the interventions of the previous country programme, this component will advocate for the replication to selected islands of referral systems and initiatives that focus on prevention of harm, especially those related to reduction, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug users.

44. The **communications, advocacy and planning** component will be cross-cutting, substantially contributing to key result areas (c), (e) and (f). Its focus will be on behaviour change communication and improved use of disaggregated data and information for more equitable policy development, planning and programme

implementation. In conjunction with the child protection programme, focusing on the substantive work on harmonizing legal frameworks with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this programme will implement awareness-raising campaigns on children's rights and increase the knowledge of the general public on recourses available in the juvenile justice system. The planning capacity of the Human Rights Commission and other relevant institutions will be strengthened for facilitating compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Legal and policy frameworks will be put in place to enable key stakeholders, especially civil society and media, to participate in the delivery and planning of child-related socio-economic services. The programme will ensure that priorities established at the community level are based on informed decisions and are realized, with the assistance of civil society organizations, through local development plans and projects.

45. The **cross-sectoral** budget will ensure that resources are available to facilitate the implementation and achievement of country programme objectives. It will cover overhead and other running costs of the programme components, including administration, finance, supply and secretarial support. It may cover the cost of professional staff, various consultants and temporary fixed-term staff. Additional staff may be employed using donor contributions, including those raised through National Committees for UNICEF.

Major partnerships

46. UNICEF will continue the majority of partnerships established in the previous country programme, as they enhanced its efficiency and effectiveness and will help to leverage further results for children. Extensive coordination efforts will be required to manage the large number of partnerships needed.

47. Line Ministries will be the main partners in planning and implementation. Institutional partners such as foreign universities will be supported to strengthen local capacity in the areas of child protection systems and wider capacity-building for social service delivery. The Maldives College of Higher Education will be the local partner for implementing a long-term strategy to strengthen social work. Collaboration with NGOs will continue in psychosocial services for child victims of physical and sexual abuse; water and sanitation; recovery and prevention of substance misuse; and child-friendly schools. Multisectoral partnerships, such as those set up with the Government-led Multisectoral National Steering Committee for Community-based IECD, will be used to overcome programme duplications and develop a holistic national IECD strategy. Establishing public-private partnerships that can ensure the sustainability of water and sanitation interventions will continue to be a priority.

48. United Nations partnerships in the health sector will continue with WHO for life skills education; with UNFPA for protection of women; and with UNDP for environment and water and sanitation activities. Partnership with the World Bank will utilize the Bank's expertise in improving social-sector budgeting. The World Bank will also provide support to education, specifically to strengthening secondary teaching through Teacher Resource Centres.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

49. To strengthen the monitoring systems within the country, two systems have been supported by United Nations agencies. First is *MaldivInfo*, a localized version of DevInfo providing information on a variety of indicators. Second is the Development Assistance Database, used to monitor external resources provided to Maldives. The two tools mentioned above, along with routine monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the Government, UNDAF and other United Nations agencies, will be used to inform decision-making and identify areas for course correction.

50. To review and monitor progress and budget implementation, tripartite quarterly reviews will be held with line Ministries and the Division of External Resources, and end-of-year review meetings will be held with Government counterparts. A tsunami evaluation will be undertaken in 2008 to assess the impact of UNICEF interventions. Key indicators identified in the UNDAF monitoring and evaluation plan and the UNICEF integrated monitoring and evaluation plan will be monitored regularly.

51. The UNICEF Malé office staff provides administrative, financial, supply and secretarial support to the programme. Since tsunami funding will be fully utilized, the office structure will be right-sized to reflect the new resource allocation indicated. All country programme-supported activities will be implemented by Government Ministries and departments or NGOs, and coordinated by the Division of External Resources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Summary Results Matrix: Government of Republic of Maldives – UNICEF country programme, 2008–2010

UNICEF MTSP Focus Area	Key Results Expected in this Focus Area/ Baseline Estimates for these Results	Key Progress Indicators	Means of Verification of Results	Major Partners, Partnership Frameworks and Cooperation Programmes	Expected Key Results in this Focus Area will contribute to:
1. Young child survival and development	1.1 All children under five and pregnant mothers have sustained access to quality health services and caregivers of children under three in 10 atolls apply community- and household-based care and feeding practices	% of caregivers of children under three practicing 5 integrated early childhood development behaviours in targeted atolls **Baseline**: Will be provided by Impact Monitoring and Programme Assessment for Children of the Tsunami (IMPACT) in 2007 **Target**: 25% % of infants under six months exclusively breastfed **Baseline**: 10.4% **Target**: 21% % of HIV+ women requiring antiretroviral treatment who receive treatment **Target**: 100% % of babies born to identified HIV+ women who receive cotrimoxazole prophylaxis **Target**: 100% % of identified HIV+ infants who receive appropriate care and treatment	Nutrition and Child Health Surveillance System; IMPACT 2010 multiple indicator cluster survey Routine reporting from Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health; Department of Public Health; Faculty of Health Sciences; Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Energy, Environment, and Water; Ministry of Atolls; civil society organizations (CSOs); WHO; UNFPA	**UNDAF Expected Outcome 1:** By 2010, the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society in Maldives will enjoy better health status, improved access to quality education, enhanced social protection, income and employment opportunities. **MDGs:** 1, 4, 5, 7 **Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Article 2, 6, 24 and 27 **WFFC:** Promoting healthy lives; Put children first
	1.2 Environment services established during the previous country programme,				

Summary Results Matrix: Government of Republic of Maldives – UNICEF country programme, 2008–2010					
UNICEF MTSP Focus Area	**Key Results Expected in this Focus Area/ Baseline Estimates for these Results**	**Key Progress Indicators**	**Means of Verification of Results**	**Major Partners, Partnership Frameworks and Cooperation Programmes**	**Expected Key Results in this Focus Area will contribute to:**
	such as provision of safe water and sewage treatment systems are maintained by communities in four islands, and safe and sustainable sewage treatment systems are replicated in other safe island locations through advocacy.	**Target**: 100% # of islands having functioning sanitation system (sustaining of infrastructure provided during the tsunami period) **Baseline**: 4 **Target**: 4	Routine reporting from Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water		
2. Basic education and gender equality	2.1 All children aged 3-16 have improved access to quality education; universal primary education enrolment is sustained; and transition rates from primary to secondary education is increased to 95%.	Transition rate from primary to lower secondary school **Baseline**: 88% **Target**: 95% Availability of trained SNE facilitators in all atolls **Baseline**: 4 **Target**: 20 Standard tests for measuring learning achievement linked to national curriculum are in place in all primary schools **Baseline**: N/A **Target**: In place	Routine reporting from Ministry of Education	Ministry of Education; Ministry of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security; CSOs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Gender and Family; UNFPA; UNESCO	**UNDAF Expected Outcome 1**: (see above) **MDGs:** 2, 3, 8 **Millennium Declaration:** Section I: Values and principles (paragraph 2) **Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Articles 2, 23, 28, 29 and 31 **WFFC:** Providing quality education; Put children first

Summary Results Matrix: Government of Republic of Maldives – UNICEF country programme, 2008–2010

UNICEF MTSP Focus Area	Key Results Expected in this Focus Area/ Baseline Estimates for these Results	Key Progress Indicators	Means of Verification of Results	Major Partners, Partnership Frameworks and Cooperation Programmes	Expected Key Results in this Focus Area will contribute to:
3. HIV/ AIDS and children	3.1 95% of adolescents (10-18) have correct knowledge of HIV and AIDS, know how to reduce risks and protect themselves against the disease, and 75% of identified most-at-risk adolescents receive targeted comprehensive HIV prevention services Please also refer to HIV indicators stated for (1.1) above.	% of identified adolescents abusing drugs who have correct knowledge of key HIV/AIDS prevention methods Estimated **Baseline**: <50% **Target**: 75% Number of identified youth recovering from drug addiction who have received vocational training at Gringe **Baseline**: Zero **Target**: 300	Drug user assessment	Ministry of Health; Department of Public Health; Faculty of Health Sciences; Ministry of Youth and Sports; National Narcotics Control Board; WHO; UNFPA; CSOs	**UNDAF Expected Outcome 1:** (see above) **MDGs:** 6 **WFFC:** Combat HIV/AIDS
4. Child protection	4.1 Vulnerable and marginalized children, with an emphasis on the girl child, are identified, referred to the appropriate social protection services and monitored by a multisectoral national child protection system in Malé and target atolls	Child-friendly and gender-appropriate court procedures are utilized in Malé and target atolls **Baseline**: Not utilized **Target**: Utilized National Multisectoral Information Management System (MIS) is used to identify, monitor and refer vulnerable children **Baseline**: MIS is not used **Target**: MIS is used	Ministry of Gender and Family monitoring reports	Ministry of Gender and Family; National Narcotics Control Board; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Youth and Sports; CSOs; Family and Child Protection Unit of Police and Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Atolls; UNFPA	**UNDAF Expected Outcome 1:** (see above) **MDGs:** 1, 3, 8 **Millennium Declaration:** Section VI: Protecting the vulnerable (paragraph 26) **Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Articles 8, 9, 16, 19, 20, 33, 34, 39 **WFFC:** Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence (and paragraph 18)

Summary Results Matrix: Government of Republic of Maldives – UNICEF country programme, 2008–2010					
UNICEF MTSP Focus Area	**Key Results Expected in this Focus Area/ Baseline Estimates for these Results**	**Key Progress Indicators**	**Means of Verification of Results**	**Major Partners, Partnership Frameworks and Cooperation Programmes**	**Expected Key Results in this Focus Area will contribute to:**
5. Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights	5.1 Disaggregated data is generated, analysed and disseminated to enhance investments in the best interests of children and to ensure more equitable planning, policy development, and programme results for children	The draft 8th National Development Plan (NDP) addresses key challenges for children, women and gender equality, as defined in recent UNICEF-supported analysis **Target**: Draft 8th NDP addresses key challenges MaldivInfo, Nutrition and Child Health Surveillance System and Child Protection data base are maintained and updated with newly acquired child-related data and relevant data **Target**: MIS are used for decision-making # of articles about children's rights published in the national media by young journalists **Target**: 6	Policy / document review	Ministry of Planning and National Development; Ministry of Gender and Family; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Atolls; Human Rights Commission of Maldives; Ministry of Information and Arts; UNDP; UNICEF; UNFPA; WHO	**UNDAF Expected Outcome**: Cross-cutting and relevant to all UNDAF Expected Outcomes[1] **MDGs:** 3, 8 **Millennium Declaration**: Section I Values and principles (paragraph 6); Section III: Development and poverty eradication (paragraph 13); Section V: Human rights, democracy and good governance (paragraphs 24 & 25) **WFFC:** Democracy, equality, non-discrimination, peace and social justice (paragraph 5)

[1] **UNDAF Expected Outcomes**:

1: By 2010, the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society in Maldives will enjoy better health status, improved access to quality education, enhanced social protection, and income and employment opportunities.

2: By 2010, communities enjoy improved access to environmental services and are more capable of protecting the environment and reducing vulnerability and disaster risks with enhanced disaster management capacity.

3: By 2010, people have greater enjoyment of rights and have increased capacity to fulfil their responsibilities, and to actively participate in national and local levels of governance.